



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Salt Lake District Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3809
U-69380
(UT-026)

S/003/020

OCT 26 1992

RECEIVED

DEC 30 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Gary Mullard
Northern Stone Supply
P. O. Box 249
Oakley, Idaho 83346

Dear Gary:

Your Plan of Operations to conduct mining operations under BLM's 3809 surface mining regulations was received on September 28, 1992 and assigned case file number U-69380 for this operation. This Plan of Operations covers your turquoise stone operation in western Box Elder County, Utah.

Your mining activity will occur concurrently with other activities on the public lands. A review of your Plan of Operations by our resource staff raised some concerns. When proceeding with your on-the-ground operations, please inform your field personnel of these concerns and take the necessary precautions to prevent undue damage or degradation to other resources.

Most of the concerns were addressed at our meeting on October 7, 1992 at our office with yourself, Glen Fuller, Kim Fuller, Phil Allard, Dan Washington, Deane Zeller, and myself. We appreciated you taking the time to discuss with us your decorative stone mining operation in Park Valley. My staff gained a great deal of information from that meeting and will complete their analysis in a timely manner.

On October 13, 1992 we received a letter from you amending your Plan of Operations and copies of your correspondence with the Park Valley Hereford Association. After reviewing your amendment letter, my staff raised the following concerns:

1. Items 1 and 4 in your letter are somewhat conflicting. Construction of the described airfield needs to be permitted under 3809. We recommend that the airfield remain in your Plan of Operations so we may complete a comprehensive analysis of your total operation. If the airfield is not included now, construction of it would necessitate an amendment to your approved Plan of Operations and another environmental document.

2. As was mentioned to you at a site inspection conducted by Dan Washington of my staff on July 28, 1992, a permit is required for enclosures of public land (43 CFR 9239.2-1). The Plan of Operations serves as a permit and needs to include a description for the location of fences and locked gates and how they are incident to the mining operation.

3. The Bureau's Riparian-Wetland Initiative has been recently implemented and establishes guidelines for activities within 100 meters of riparian areas. In your Plan of Operations, you mentioned an interest in repairing the Rock Creek stream corridor. Projects in this riparian area should be coordinated with our biologist.

4. Your Plan of Operations mentioned that "The total disturbed acreage is 3.5 acres." The plan needs to include a more detailed description of all improvements, ie. living quarters, shops, sorting and loading areas, storage areas, office, and the disturbed acreage. Dan determined that the acreage for your operation to be about 5 acres when he met with you on site in July. We would like to re-evaluate this with you when we meet to gather the information for our required NEPA documentation. There is a 5 acre threshold under 3809 that serves as one of the determining factors for the degree of NEPA documentation as well as whether or not bonding will be required.

5. Reclamation Laws in the State of Utah require a filing of mining operations with the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining. Because of our MOU with the Division, we are sending a copy of your proposal to them.

6. A historical literature search and field investigation for cultural clearance will be conducted by our District archeologist, Signa Larralde. The field portion of the cultural clearance will be completed at the onsite inspection to be conducted on October 27, 1992.

Thank you for your concern and positive attitude toward conserving and protecting our natural resources. Please submit the necessary information to make your plan more complete and allow for proper analysis of your operation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dan Washington, our surface protection specialist for 3809 activities at (801) 977-4359.

Sincerely,

LEON E. BERGGREN

Leon E. Berggren
Bear River Resource Area Manager

cc: Anthony A. Gallegos, UDOGM,
(1-cy with plan)